Wikis and Open Courseware: MIT started it!

G'day this is Leigh and today we're going to talk about wikis and open courseware. I'm sitting at the kitchen bench at my mum's place, while Sunshine and Mum cook up some breakfast. So I thought I'd just quickly talk about the wikis and open courseware while they do that.

This MP3 can be listen to by itself, whether you're on the train or in a car to work, or something like that. It should be fine just to listen to it by itself, but it does come with a slide presentation which would obviously enhance the content a little.

What we're talking about is wikis and open courseware, and to start us off we might look at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Open Courseware iniative. That's the seed that was planted in most people's minds who were interested in open courseware around the world. As far as I know they were the first to make their educational content available to the world for free. So we might just start by looking at the first frame of the presentation, looking at the website for MIT Open Courseware.

Down the left hand column they have quite a few links to their courses - its been a while since I looked into their courses, and in the past the only thing they had available was a link to their text book, or something like that, that you had to buy. But I may have only read that as a criticism or something, I can't really remember... todays the day, let's have a look into anthropology and the Introduction to Anthropology course.

MIT OpenCourseWare | OCW Home - Mozilla Firefox
MITOPENCOURSEWARE
MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Search
Welcome to MIT's OpenCourseWare:
a free and open educational resource for faculty, students, and self-learners around the world. OCW supports MIT's mission to advance knowledge and education, and serve the world in the 21st century. It is true to MIT's values of excellence, innovation, and leadership.
MIT OCW:
Is a publication of MIT course materials
Does not require any registration
Is not a degree-granting or certificate-granting activity
Does not provide access to MIT faculty
Learn more about MIT OCW...
"If you were to list all the adjectives available in all the languages on earth, it will still not explain completely the user's feelings after viewing this Web site...Hats off

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Wikis and Open Courseware: MIT's Courseware

On slide two we're looking at Introduction to Anthropology from MIT Open Courseware and it opens up with a rather large picture of a Western Aid worker in what looks like an African town surrounded by brahman cattle and Africans.

Down the right hand side is an overview of the course, including the staff who wrote the course, course meeting times, a level and feedback... stuff like that. Down the left hand column is the juice of the course. We have syllabus, calendar, reading list, lecture notes, assignments, and finally study materials. So we're not actually into the content yet, we're just at the course home page. Let's look at lecture notes.

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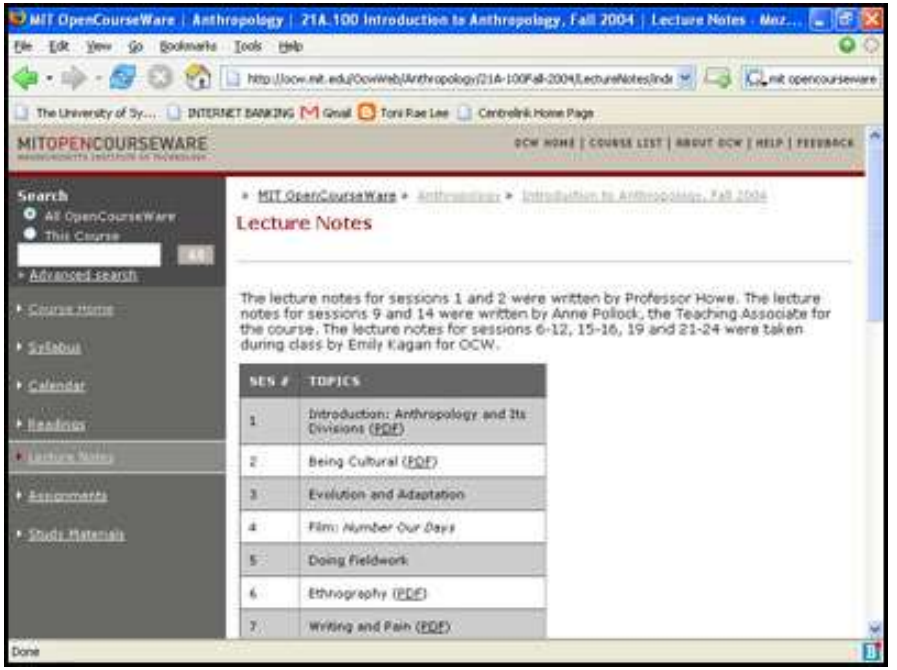
Wikis and Open Courseware: MIT - Not so open

What we have is first of all a paragraph of text under Lecture Notes giving credit to the people at MIT who wrote the content, and then we have a list based on session times, I guess week 1, week 2, week 3, and a list of readings in PDF form.

So we won't look into the PDFs because just at this stage I can see that while MIT calls itself open courseware, if its aligning itself to the principles of open source software then it note actually all that open. Certainly free, so freeware is probably a closer alignment or free courseware. This is where I think the people who are generously giving away their educational content are not as much into the open source software principles as mush as we'd like.

That's where I think wikis would come into it. There are some universities who are using wikis, but let's have a look at what wikis are.


MIT OpenCourseWare | Anthropology | 21A.100 Introduction to Anthropology, Fall 2004 | Lecture Notes
MITOPENCOURSEWARE
Search
All OpenCourseWare
This Course
Advanced search
Course Home
Syllabus
Calendar
Readings
Lecture Notes
Assignments
Study Materials
MIT OpenCourseWare
Lecture Notes
The lecture notes for sessions 1 and 2 were written by Professor Howe. The lecture notes for sessions 9 and 14 were written by Anne Pollock, the Teaching Associate for the course. The lecture notes for sessions 6-12, 15-16, 19 and 21-24 were taken during class by Emily Kagan for OCW.
SES #
TOPICS
1 Introduction: Anthropology and Its Divisions (PDF)
2 Being Cultural (PDF)
3 Evolution and Adaptation
4 Film: Number Our Days
5 Doing Fieldwork
6 Ethnography (PDF)
7 Writing and Pain (PDF)
Done

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Wikis and Open Courseware: Wikipedia

We're looking at wikipedia.org. Wikipedia is the flagship of wikis. Whenever someone talks about wikis most people are shown wikipedia as a shining example of what a wiki can be. If you're looking at the slides, then you're looking at the introductory page of wikipedia and you can see around the logo we have 10 languages available on wikipedia with a search field down below. Probably more than 10 languages because one of them is a question mark language so I'm not too sure. Last count the English language had 600 thousand or so entries in the encyclopedia called wikipedia.

So I'll just move in to a bit of depth and what in fact makes up a wiki...

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Wikis and Open Courseware: How wikis work

We've put in the search field “wiki”, to find out what in fact a wiki is. There's the content - an introductory paragraph with content links below it, and then the content, and quite an extensive entry it is too.

Now the thing that makes a wiki important is that anyone can edit an entry. All they have to do is click the 'edit page' button or link above. That gives them access to editing this page believe it or not!

So effectively this is very very open content, or open source content. So while many schools in Australia are using wikipedia and so the content is obviously free, it is more than free though it is open content in that anyone can edit it.

Many people react the first time they hear that, and think what craziness is this, how could wikipedia be so great if that's the case? So we'll look into how it all works...

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Wikis and Open Courseware: Editing Wikipedia

This is the edit view. We clicked the 'edit this page' and what wikipedia has done is reloaded the page within an edit field, which has a couple of buttons such as bold, italic, hyperlink etc. Then there's the wiki text below it which is simple kind of code around the content. So if you wanted to make it bold, I think its *** - 'the word' ***... actually, that makes it a certain size or something like that... wiki text is fairly easy to read. Personally I'm a bit disappointed that wikipedia only offers an edit view in that wiki text, because that scares a lot of people off. There are other wikis that are much easier to edit, where you just highlight the text and click the bold link, or highlight the text and click the hyper link... things like that – without ever having to look at the wiki text.

So moving right along...

Editing Wiki - Edit this page - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia - Mozilla Firefox
Editing Wiki
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

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Wikis and Open Courseware: Discussing Wikipedia

What we've clicked now is the discussion tab. So if you're looking at the wikipedia website and you're looking at the wikipedia entry, or if you're looking at the slides on this presentation, if you look carefully above the initial entry of wiki there is as you know an 'edit this page' button, a 'discussion' button, a history... and I can't remember... there was one other tab... anyway, what we have now is the discussion tab open. It opens up a contents box with all the discussion threads going on.

So people can actually have discussions around the content, which is a pretty incredible thing also. The discussion is saved for everyone else to see.

Talk:Wiki - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia - Mozilla Firefox
Talk:Wiki
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
Contents [hide]
1 Talk up through 2003
2 Maori
3 Pronunciation
4 Wiki communities section
5 Wiki History
6 Updated image for history comparison
7 Opening Sentence
8 HTML entities instead of real quotes in markup comparison?
9 What's the Difference?
10 Linguistic Nit-pick
11 A joke?
Talk up through 2003
[edit]
I often explain a wiki to people as the web equivalent of a graffiti wall. Would this analogy be worth

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Wikis and Open Courseware: Wikis' Version Control

We've clicked the history of the page. Now the great think about wikipedia, and this is the thing that makes it work, when everyone makes an edit is saved next to the previous version. So every time an edit is saved, a record is kept. So if anytime someone comes in and just deletes all of the content, then anyone can come into the history of the page, and find the version when all the content was available and in good nick, and revert back to that quite easily.

That's the crux. Its easier to revert back to a good version than it is to come in and vandalise.

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Wikis and Open Courseware: Wikiversity

We've gone away from Wikipedia now, that's basically how a wiki works. Now we're looking at a new initiative called Wikiversity. Its quite incredible. Basically anyone can come in and create a university course using the tools of a wiki – collaborative writing online.

While a lot of the content on this initiative so far is incomplete, it is rapidly building, and gaining quite a bit of attention.

This is were my idea of the wikis as open courseware – well its not my idea at all, just looking at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's idea of open courseware, and then looking at the technology that is enabled through wikis, we can see that MIT isn't perhaps that open. Their content may be free, but all of their branding and marketing and all that sort of stuff is implicit in that kind of free courseware. The users aren't really able to get in there and rewrite the content to suite them a bit better.

Where if the course is on a wiki for anyone to either take the content out, or even edit it on location.

Wikiversity - Wikibooks - Mozilla Firefox
Wikiversity
Wikiversity: Your Free University
Welcome to the Wikiversity, a free, open learning environment and research community. You can find online courses about many different topics here, and create courses of your own.
Announcements

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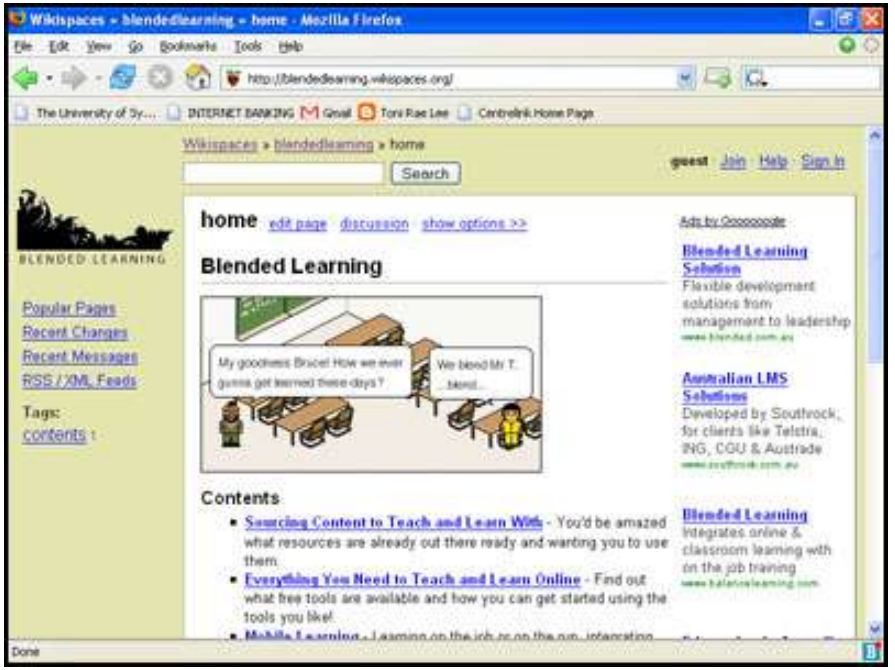
Wikis and Open Courseware: BlendedLearning Wiki

So Wikiversity was the seed again, on top of the MIT Open Courseware. My friends, colleagues and I use a service called wikispaces.org to give this wiki editing a bit of a run. We wanted to develop up a course called Blended Learning which would be resources for teachers and learners to get their headaround how technology affects teaching and learning. And we're continuosly developing this as a resource. The great thing is the ability to edit it quickly means that it is very easy to keep this resource up to date once it starts to fill out.

So thats our Blended Learning, the URL for that is blendedlearning.wikispaces.org and you can have a little bit of a look at that course.


Wikispaces » blendedlearning » home - Mozilla Firefox
Wikispaces » blendedlearning » home
Search
guest · Join · Help · Sign In
BLENDED LEARNING
Popular Pages
Recent Changes
Recent Messages
RSS / XML Feeds
Tags:
contents
home edit page discussion show options >>
Blended Learning
Contents
Sourcing Content to Teach and Learn With - You'd be amazed what resources are already out there ready and waiting you to use them
Everything You Need to Teach and Learn Online - Find out what free tools are available and how you can get started using the tools you like!
Blended Learning
Integrates online & classroom learning with on the job training
Done

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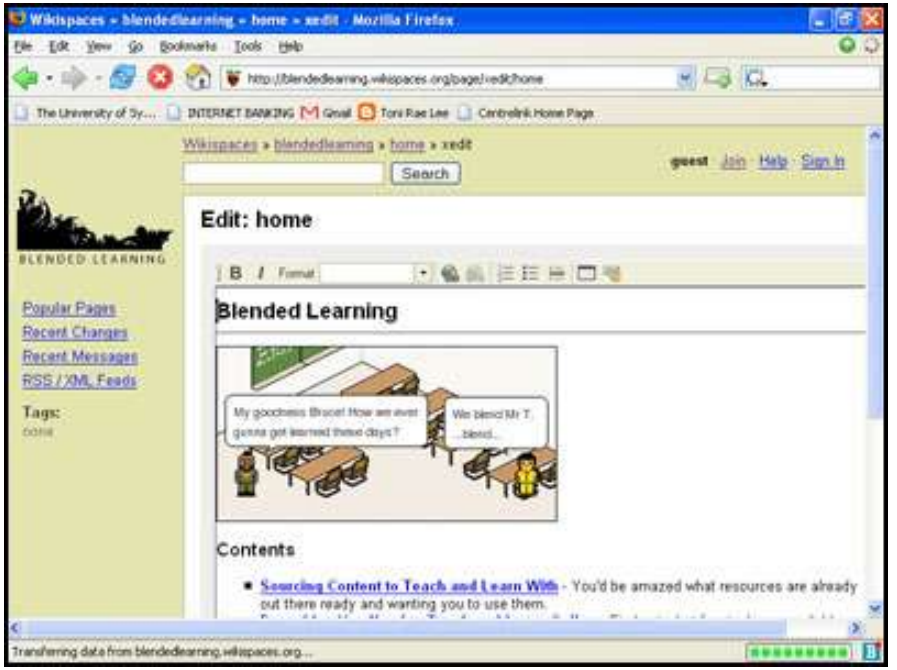
Wikis and Open Courseware: Editing in Wikispaces

Looking at wikispaces it shows the edit view. This is what I was talking about before on Wikipedia. Wikispaces is a bit better in that you don't have to look at the code side of the wikitext – even though it simple, you can look at what they call a WYSIWYG editor – What You See Is What You Get is what WYSIWYG stands for. If you're familiar with a word processor then you'll quickly find your way around editing the wiki content on wikispaces.

You can still edit it in the wikitext version by the way..


Wikispaces » blendedlearning » home » xedit
Search
guest Join Help Sign In
Edit: home
BLENDED LEARNING
Popular Pages
Recent Changes
Recent Messages
RSS / XML Feeds
Tags:
Blended Learning
Contents
Sourcing Content to Teach and Learn With - You'd be amazed what resources are already out there ready and wanting you to use them.

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Wikis and Open Courseware: Editing in Wikispaces

Here it is in the wikitext code view. That's the Blended Learning content.

Wikispaces » blendedlearning » home » edit - Mozilla Firefox
Wikispaces » blendedlearning » home » edit
guest Join Help Sign In
Search
Edit: home
BLENDED LEARNING
Popular Pages
Recent Changes
Recent Messages
RSS / XML Feeds
Tags:
= **Blended Learning** =

[[image:Blended_Learning.jpg]]
== **Contents** ==
* **[[Sourcing Content to Teach and Learn With]]** - You'd be amazed what resources are already out there ready and wanting you to use them.
* **[[Everything You Need to Teach and Learn Online]]** - Find out what free tools are available and how you can get started using the tools you like!
* **[[Mobile Learning]]** - Learning on the job or on the run, integrating mobile phones and other tools into education.
* **[[Setting up for blended learning]]** - Currently this page is a scratchpad for classroom ideas, network ideas and new ideas for old tools.
* **[[Recommended guidelines for organisations]]** - Ways for organisations to progress and manage Blended Learning.
Done

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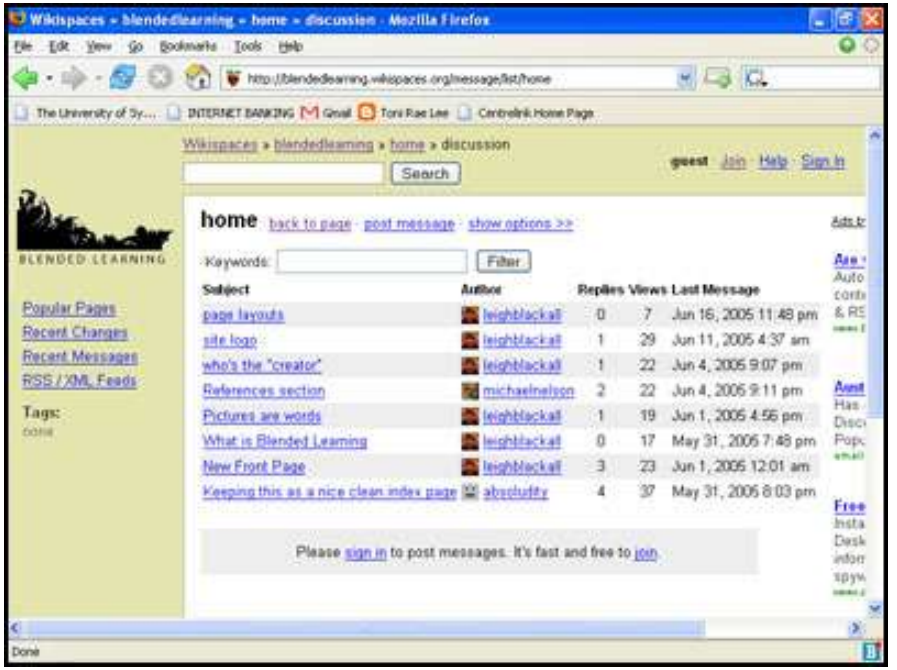
Wikis and Open Courseware: Discussing Wikispaces

Here's how the history is laid out – sorry this is the discussion – wikispaces also has a discussion board around each page created. A little thumbnail image next to each user in the threads.


Wikispaces » blendedlearning » home » discussion - Mozilla Firefox
Wikispaces » blendedlearning » home » discussion
Search
guest Join · Help · Sign In
home back to page · post message · show options >>
Keywords: Filter
Popular Pages
Recent Changes
Recent Messages
RSS / XML Feeds
Tags:
Subject Author Replies Views Last Message
page layouts leighblackall 0 7 Jun 16, 2005 11:48 pm
site logo leighblackall 1 29 Jun 11, 2005 4:37 am
who's the "creator" leighblackall 1 22 Jun 4, 2005 9:07 pm
References section michaelnelson 2 22 Jun 4, 2005 9:11 pm
Pictures are words leighblackall 1 19 Jun 1, 2005 4:56 pm
What is Blended Learning leighblackall 0 17 May 31, 2005 7:48 pm
New Front Page leighblackall 3 23 Jun 1, 2005 12:01 am
Keeping this as a nice clean index page absolutely 4 37 May 31, 2005 8:03 pm
Please sign in to post messages. It's fast and free to join.
Done

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Wikis and Open Courseware: More Options

In wikispaces, up with the 'edit this page button' and 'discussion' button, there is a 'more options' button and that brings up the 'history' and 'load image' things like RSS feeds and things like that. When you click those 'more options' a screen grab thumbnail loads up as well enticing you to look at the history of the page.

Wikispaces » blendedlearning » home - Mozilla Firefox
Wikispaces » blendedlearning » home
Search
guest · Join · Help · Sign In
home edit page · discussion · hide options << · history · attach image · rss · atom
Tuesday, 4:57 pm by leighblackall
BLENDED LEARNING
Popular Pages
Recent Changes
Recent Messages
RSS / XML Feeds
Tags:
contents
Blended Learning
Contents
Sourcing Content to Teach and Learn With - You'd be amazed
Blended Learning Solution
Flexible development solutions from management to leadership
E-Learning in Australia
Compliance, IT, Safety, Sales, Orientation & Soft-Skills training
SCORM Software Solutions
SCOBuilder: SCORM content creation
SCORMxt: Quark/SCO Import/Export
Done

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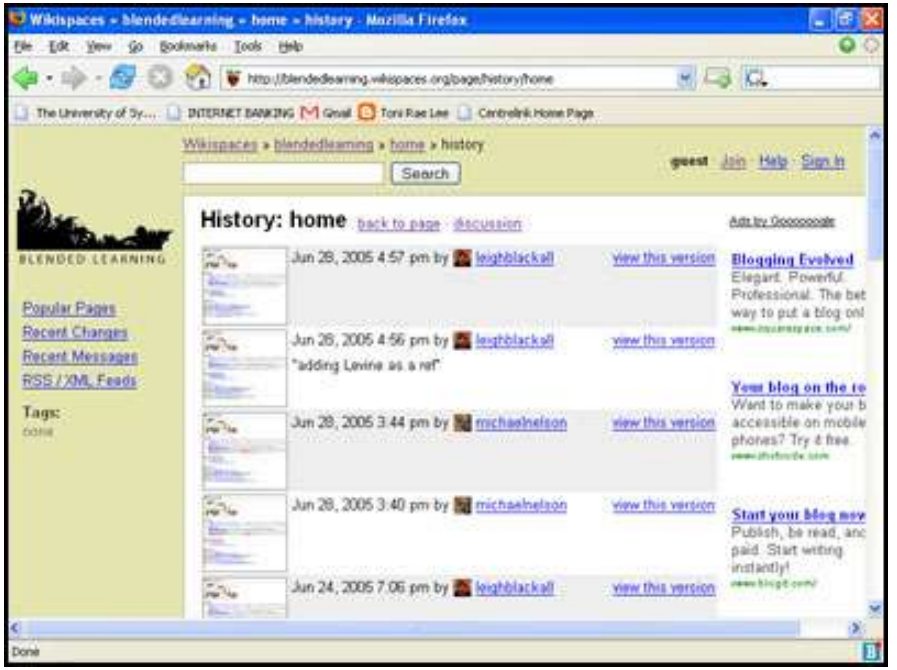
Wikis and Open Courseware: Page History

So I have looked at the history of the page, and the great thing about wikispaces is that it creates little screen grab thumbnails for version that there was. There's a comment that the editor has left, and then a link where you can view each version.


Wikispaces » blendedlearning » home » history - Mozilla Firefox
File Edit View Go Bookmarks Tools Help
Wikispaces » blendedlearning » home » history
Search
guest Join · Help · Sign In
BLENDED LEARNING
Popular Pages
Recent Changes
Recent Messages
RSS / XML Feeds
Tags:
History: home back to page · discussion
Jun 28, 2005 4:57 pm by leighblackall view this version
Jun 28, 2005 4:56 pm by leighblackall view this version
"adding Levine as a ref"
Jun 28, 2005 3:44 pm by michaelnelson view this version
Jun 28, 2005 3:40 pm by michaelnelson view this version
Jun 24, 2005 7:06 pm by leighblackall view this version
Ads by Gooooooogle
Blogging Evolved
Elegant. Powerful. Professional. The bes
way to put a blog on
Your blog on the go
Want to make your b
accessible on mobile
phones? Try it free.
Start your blog now
Publish, be read, and
paid. Start writing
instantly!
Done

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Wikis and Open Courseware: Signing in Wikispaces

What we're going to do now is sign into wikispaces. So I've just gone to wikispaces.org and clicked 'sign in' or 'create new account' and create and account like you do on most things, its quite easy. So now that I've signed in, any edits I do will be registered as being by me. You can go in there as a guest and make edits anonymously, just your computer's IP address will show, but obviously its good to let your name be shown for any contributions you may have made.

Wikispaces » signin - Mozilla Firefox
wikispaces
Wikispaces » signin
Search
guest · Join · Help · Sign In
Popular Pages
Recent Changes
Recent Messages
RSS / XML Feeds
Sign In
Username: leighblackall
Password:
password reminder
sign in
New To Wikispaces?
We encourage you to join Wikispaces now - it's free and you'll be able to join and create communities, build new pages, post messages, and keep track of topics you're interested in. We won't send you spam and we'll never give away your email address or personal information.
Help · About · Terms · Privacy
Done

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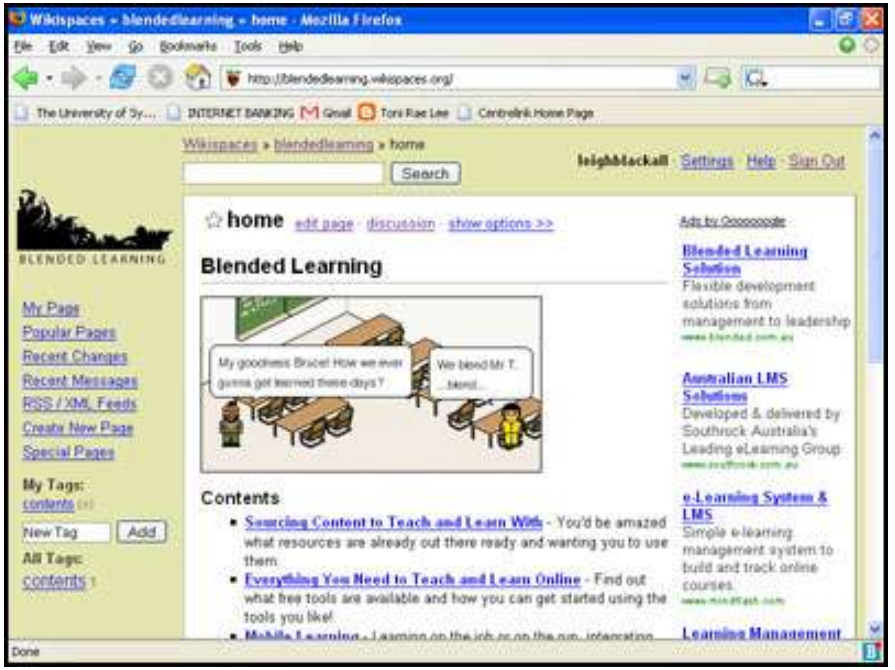
Wikis and Open Courseware: Signing in Wikispaces

So I've signed in now and the only thing that tells me that I've signed in is up in the right hand corner of the screen, instead of saying guest it says my name – Leigh Blackall. And we are back onto the Blended Learning page.


Wikispaces » blendedlearning » home - Mozilla Firefox
Wikispaces » blendedlearning » home
Search
leighblackall · Settings · Help · Sign Out
home edit page · discussion · show options >>
Blended Learning
BLENDED LEARNING
My Page
Popular Pages
Recent Changes
Recent Messages
RSS / XML Feeds
Create New Page
Special Pages
My Tags:
contents
New Tag
Add
All Tags:
contents
Contents
Sourcing Content to Teach and Learn With - You'd be amazed what resources are already out there ready and waiting you to use them
Everything You Need to Teach and Learn Online - Find out what free tools are available and how you can get started using the tools you like!
Ads by Google
Blended Learning Solution
Flexible development solutions from management to leadership
Australian LMS Solutions
Developed & delivered by Southrock Australia's Leading eLearning Group
e-Learning System & LMS
Simple e-learning management system to build and track online courses
Learning Management
Done

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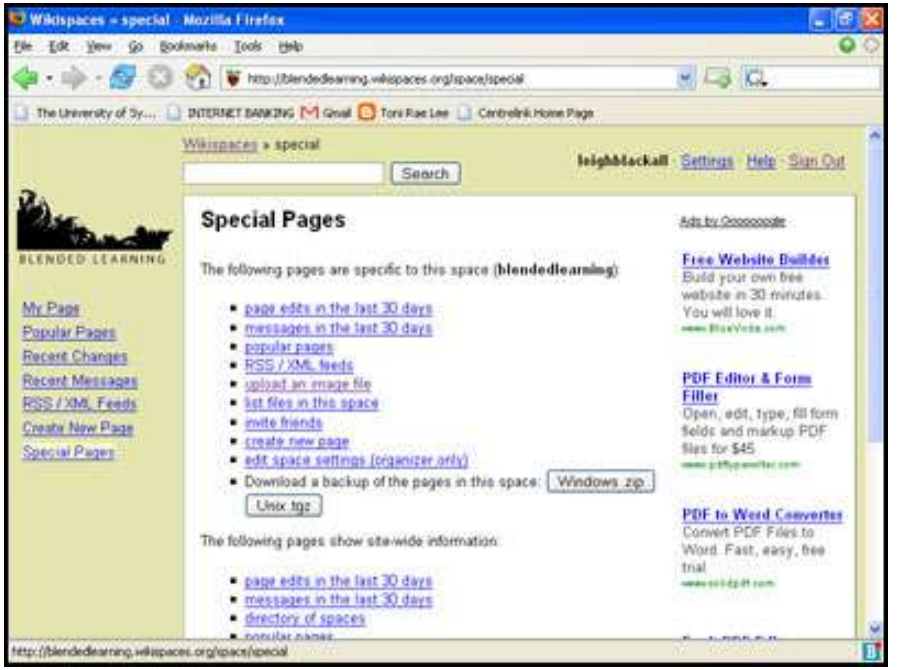
Wikis and Open Courseware: Wikispaces Special

On the left hand column, when you log in there are more options available to you as a member of wikispaces. One of them is create new space, create new page, things like that. Also there's 'special pages'. I've clicked 'special pages' and as an owner of a wikispace you have quite a few options to edit the look of the site. As a non-owner you have a few options there as well.

One of the options worth noting there is to download a backup version of the wikispace that you're creating, as a zip file. Its a pretty important feature to look at.


Wikispaces » special
Search
leighblackall · Settings · Help · Sign Out
Special Pages
BLENDED LEARNING
My Page
Popular Pages
Recent Changes
Recent Messages
RSS / XML Feeds
Create New Page
Special Pages
The following pages are specific to this space (blendedlearning)
page edits in the last 30 days
messages in the last 30 days
popular pages
RSS / XML feeds
upload an image file
list files in this space
invite friends
create new page
edit space settings (organizer only)
Download a backup of the pages in this space:
Windows zip
Unix tgz
The following pages show site-wide information
page edits in the last 30 days
messages in the last 30 days
directory of spaces
Free Website Builder
Build your own free website in 30 minutes. You will love it.
PDF Editor & Form Filler
Open, edit, type, fill form fields and markup PDF files for $45
PDF to Word Converter
Convert PDF Files to Word. Fast, easy, free trial

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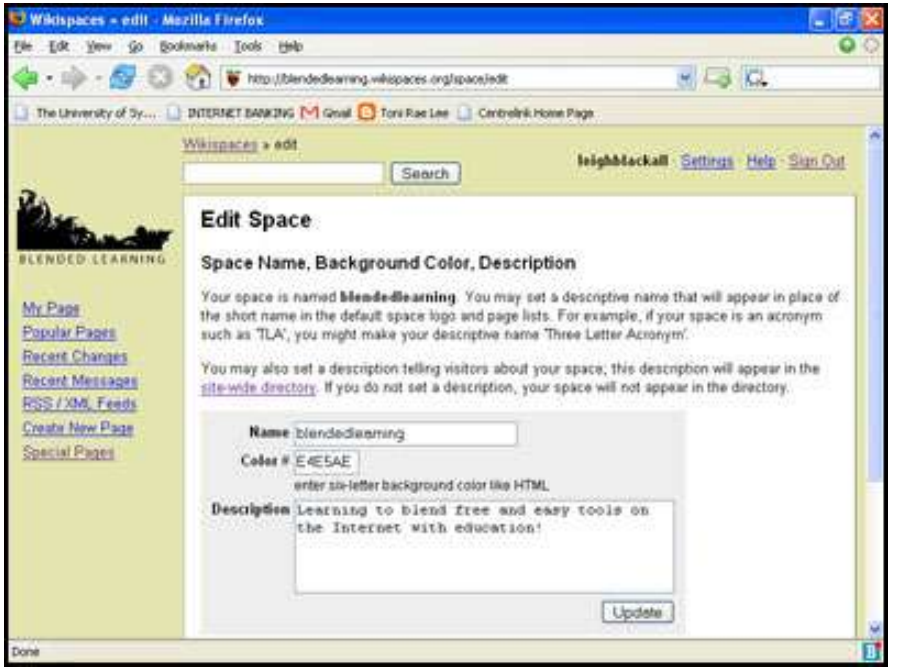
Wikis and Open Courseware: Edit Wiki Space

I've clicked in the 'special pages' option, and into 'edit space'. In the 'edit space' we can change the name of the space, ours is Blended Learning, and the description, and there's a colour field where we can change the background colour of the website. Down the bottom, you can't quite see in the screen grab in this presentation, there is an option to upload a logo to the top left corner of the website, which you can see in the Blended Learning. Otherwise you just get the default wikispaces logo.


Wikispaces » edit - Mozilla Firefox
Wikispaces » edit
Search
leighblackall · Settings · Help · Sign Out
BLENDED LEARNING
My Page
Popular Pages
Recent Changes
Recent Messages
RSS / XML Feeds
Create New Page
Special Pages
Edit Space
Space Name, Background Color, Description
Your space is named blendedlearning. You may set a descriptive name that will appear in place of the short name in the default space logo and page lists. For example, if your space is an acronym such as 'TLA', you might make your descriptive name 'Three Letter Acronym'.
You may also set a description telling visitors about your space; this description will appear in the site-wide directory. If you do not set a description, your space will not appear in the directory.
Name blendedlearning
Color # E4E5AE
enter six-letter background color like HTML
Description Learning to blend free and easy tools on the Internet with education!
Update
Done

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Wikis and Open Courseware: Wikispaces Help

We're back out into the wikispaces page and looking at their help. Just so you know that they have a comprehensive but brief and easy to understand help page to get yourself around wikispaces.

Wikispaces » help - Mozilla Firefox
wikispaces
Wikispaces » help
Search
leighblackall · Settings · Help · Sign Out
My Page
Popular Pages
Recent Changes
Recent Messages
RSS / XML Feeds
Create New Space
My Tags:
New Tag
Add
All Tags:
help
help edit page · discussion · show options >>
Table of Contents
Spaces
Creating Spaces
Editing Spaces
Pages
Creating Pages
Editing Pages
Reverting Pages
Page History
Feeds
Discussion Areas
Favorites
Tags
Internationalization
Spaces
A wikispace is an area in which you can create pages about particular topic. A wikispace called "peanuts" will live under peanuts.wikispaces.org.
Creating Spaces
To create a new wikispace simply click on "Create New Space" in the sidebar. You can create as many wikispaces as you like. There are no limits on how big your spaces can be!
Editing Spaces
1. How do I change my space logo?
For a space that you've created, you can change the logo by clicking 'Special Pages' in your space, then on 'edit space settings'. From this page you can upload a jpg, png, or gif to change out our funny little bonsai tree.
2. How do I change my space's background color?
For a space that you've created, you can change the background color by clicking 'Special Pages' in
http://www.wikispaces.org/help

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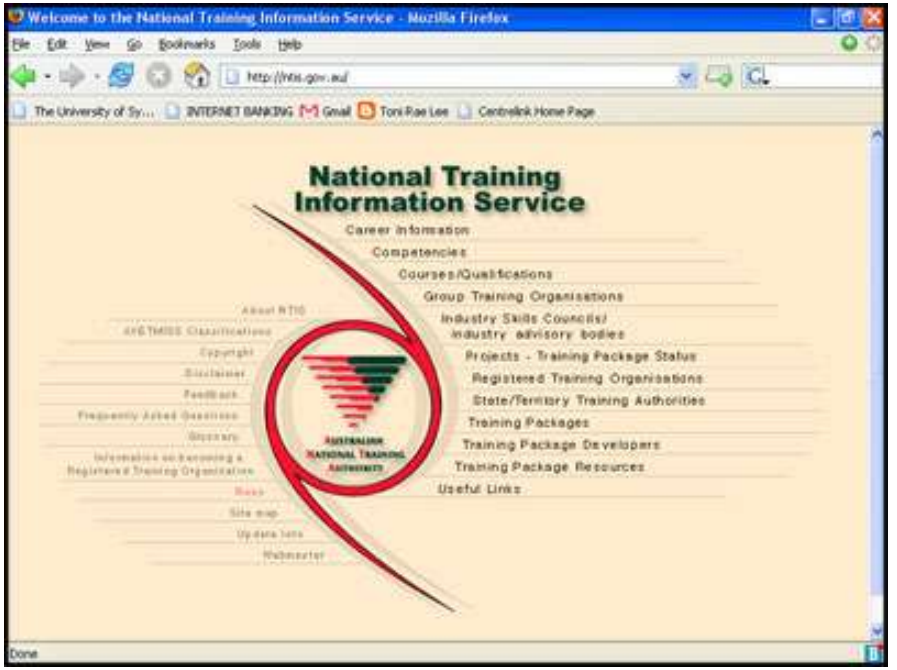
Wikis and Open Courseware: NTIS to the Wiki

We've jumped out of wikispaces and the concept of wikis, and we're looking at the (Australian) National Training Information Service.

What my idea is that I presented to a TAFE Outreach group just recently, was the idea of developing training courses in wikis.

So we could all collaborate on the wiki to develop the courses and make them available for free to be a truly open courseware initiative.

The NTIS has quite a bit of information on its website around the National Training Framework. The Australian framework works around competency based training, and those competencies are grouped around training packages. So you might look at Information Technology as the training package and that is made up of quite a big list and range of competencies needed to attain the recognition and certification for Information Technology.



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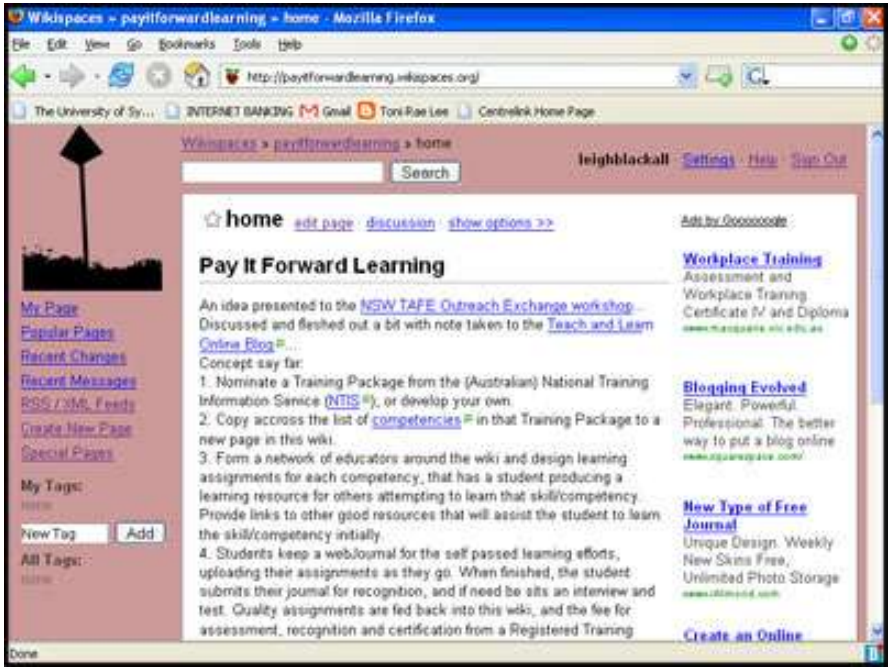
Wikis and Open Courseware: Wiki Courses

In wikispaces, just to initiate the concept, I've created a space called "Pay It Forward Learning". Pay it forward was a suggestion for a name by someone in the audience who I made the presentation about wiki courses to. They thought the concept within (which I'll talk about a little later) was familiar to them in the story called Pay It Forward – a movie, and a book, I can't remember the name of the book... an interesting movie where a young boy's given an assignment where he must think of something to change the world and do it. What he does is he must help 3 people in a pretty profound way and the requirement is instead of them paying him back, they must go out each and help 3 people themselves. In other words paying the favour forward. Pretty quickly, the number of people doing good things for each other increases.

So that's the concept of pay it forward. The concept behind the wikicourse in Pay It Forward Learning wikispace was to take a National Training Framework training package such as Information Technology, literally copy across all the competencies, list the competencies down in a wikispace, and then ask professionals and educators to come in and design assignments requiring them to create learning resources on that particular competency.

So it may be in 'Using Email' that a couple of links are provided to teach yourself how to use email, what it all is and stuff, but the assignment is to create an MP3, or a word document, or a movie... whatever, that explains about using email. The next student that comes along can use that resource.

Obviously, not every student's resource is going to be of the quality that we can use, but imagine 10 – 100 students going through a particular course, all we need is 1 in 10 students to create a pretty good resource that will feed back into the wiki.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Looking at that in a bit of detail, what we have is an example of that where I've taken one particular training competency out of the training package known as Information Technology, this competency is Using an Internet Browser and Email, I think the competency is actually termed “Send and Receive Information Over the Internet using browsers and email”.

And so what I've done is pasted those down into the wiki and in the future what I hope to be doing is getting a couple of assignments and ideas listed in there with a few links and resources for some students to go out and teach themselves...

So that's the idea of open courseware through a wiki, thanks for joining me and I really look forward to your feedback.

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Thanks for coming, bye bye.

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use internet browser and email
Send and retrieve information over the Internet using browsers and email
Complete basic web search tasks and send and receive emails with attachments
This is a skill used in Information Technology
Access the internet
Open browser and assign a Home Page/ Start Page through setting basic preferences
Adjust the display/view modes to suit personal requirements
Modify toolbar to meet user and browsing needs
Access a particular site and retrieve data
Load or not load images depending on modem speed, computer and browser capabilities
Newsgroup Servers
NewsGator RSS Reader
Free Outlook RSS Reader
Done

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